



## News Release

*For Immediate Release*

### *Youth DISS Gang Violence*

**Toronto, August 10, 2009** - DISS, an interactive play created by **Mixed Company Theatre** in collaboration with youth affected by gang violence debuts August 14 at York Memorial CI.

Collaborating with professional artists including Chalmers Award-winning playwright, Rex Deverell and hip-hop artists Tru-Paz and Miles Jones, Toronto area youth will be performing a play about gang violence. **DISS** debuts August 14 and August 16 at York Memorial CI and will tour from August 17 – 21.

**Youth will perform raps based on their experiences with violence while a DJ spins live beats throughout the show.** Developed in partnership with the Toronto Police Service, the play presents the worst-case scenarios of **gang involvement**, catalyzing audience members to express their voices, making our communities safer.

**WHAT:** DISS, an interactive play about gang violence, debuts this week and tours next week.

**WHEN:** Friday, August 14 at 7:00pm, Sunday August 16 at 2:00pm, plus additional performances.

**WHERE:** York Memorial CI, Auditorium, 2690 Eglinton Ave. W at Keele, Toronto, ON, M6M 1T9

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:** All performances are free. Donations will go to youth who participated in the show.

*DISS will tour to the following locations donated by the Toronto District School Board:*

**Lester B Pearson CI (150 Tapscott Road )** Monday August 17 at 7:00 pm

**David and Mary Thomson CI (2740 Lawrence Ave. E)** Tuesday August 18 at 7:00 pm

**Bloor CI (1141 Bloor St W)** Wednesday August 19 at 7:00 pm

**Sir Sanford Fleming Academy (50 Ameer Ave)** Thursday August 20 7:00 pm

**Westview Centennial SS (755 Oakdale Rd)** Friday August 21 2:00pm and 7:00 pm

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*Mixed Company Theatre produces innovative, socially relevant drama as a tool to educate, engage and empower for positive change.*

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